

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMBELL:ASM

APPROVED BY ARA - AMB. BOWDLER

S/S - WHLUERS

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O P 220116Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

GOVERNOR PANCANAL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 106732

EXDIS TOSEC 903

SUBJ: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF
DEVELOPMENTS (5/20/74)

REF: JERUSALEM 0860

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER FROM BELL

---- I.

1. THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM IN POSTPONING TO A LATER
DATE THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WHICH YOU AND THE
FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF MAY ON
CONTADORA.

2. BEFORE I HAD FINISHED EXPLAINING TO AMBASSADOR
GONZALEZ REVILLA THAT YOUR MIDDLE EAST RESPONSIBILITIES
MIGHT REQUIRE A POSTPONEMENT OF SOME DAYS, HE INTER-
JECTED THAT PANAMA WOULD NOT IN FACT BE READY FOR
SUBSTANTIVE TALKS BY THIS MONTH'S END.

3. THAT IS IN PART THE RESULT OF THE MINISTER'S CURRENT,
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UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES TO INAUGURATE THE

PRIVATE "CONGRESS OF PANAMANIAN CITIZENS" AND IN PART, HE CONTINUED, THE RESULT OF THE DEPUTIES HAVING MOVED MORE RAPIDLY THAN THE MINISTER HAD ANTICIPATED IN REACHING

AGREEMENT ON THE MAJOR-ISSUES PAPER. ACCORDINGLY THE CHIEF NEGOTIATORS' TALKS COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE MINISTER HAD PREPARED FOR THUS FAR.

4. HE ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY'S NEED FOR YOU IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT WHENEVER YOU RETURNED TO WASHINGTON YOU WOULD THEN REQUIRE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE PANAMA TALKS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THE DEPUTIES GUESSED THAT MID-JUNE MIGHT BE A REASONABLE TARGET DATE FOR THE TALKS. HAVING CHECKED WITH THE MINISTER, THE AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT "MID-JUNE -- OR LATER -- WOULD BE FINE". I SAID I WOULD LET HIM KNOW IF YOU HAD OTHER PREFERENCES.

--- II.

1. WITH YOUR APPROVAL IN HAND, THE STAFF SUPPORT GROUP WHICH IS TO EXAMINE THE SUITABILITY OF THE SUBSTANCE AND FORMAT OF THE U.S. POSITIONS ESTABLISHED IN PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS IS BEING FORMED.

2. THE LOTTERY LEGISLATION WAS REPORTED OUT OF CONGRESSMAN LEGGETT'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO THE FULL MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE FAVORABLY -- AND UNANIMOUSLY -- LAST WEEK. RUSH

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